

Beatrix Farrand Society
Docent Program Report, Oct 12, 2013
Emily Fuchs, Docent Chair

On Tuesday 6/25, a dozen volunteers met in the Educational Barn to see an Orientation Power-Point presentation by Jim and Emily Fuchs. Several hand-outs including maps, histories, bloom-times, writings of Beatrix Farrand, books about Beatrix Farrand and back issues of the BFS Newsletter were distributed to the Docents. A detailed description of how to meet visitors and conduct tours was reviewed and a Q & A period followed. Reference books from the BFS Library were on exhibit. After a free lunch, Jim and Emily took the volunteers on a tour of the Farrand Wing and Gardens. Anne Welles, Volunteer Coordinator, made out a schedule for the Open Day Volunteers starting Thursday July 4th and ending Sat September 14th.

Guided tours on days other than Thursday s and Saturdays totaled 25 tours for 179 visitors between Sat May 25th and Monday Sept 30th. Emily and Jim customized each tour according to the wishes of the visitors, most of whom were interested in horticulture and garden design. Outstanding attendees were: Teachers from NEH Elementary School (Anica Miller-Rushing, Carol Shutt); Garden Historian Diane Balmori; Ruggles House Museum Board of Trustees; an interested European gardener, Constantino Coccoli, from Lodi, Italy and several gardeners from Nova Scotia. Visiting Garden Clubs and/or ones which conducted their meetings in the Education Barn are Franklin Maine GC, Blue Hill GC, Pleasant River GC and Bar Harbor GC.

On Tuesday July 9th, Jim and Emily met with Anica Miller-Rushing (NEH Elem School Community Coordinator), Carol Shutt (NEH Elem School Art Teacher), and Betsy Hewlett (BFS Grant Writer) to discuss developing a BFS Childrens' Program at Garland Farm. Resource materials included books, "Math in the Garden", "The New England Gardeners' Year", and Lisa Gardner Walsh's "Fairy House Handbook". Anica will discuss all of the ideas with the faculty and get back to us about a Spring program.

Anne Welles, Volunteer Coordinator, kindly agreed to meet with Jim and Emily on Weds Sept 25th to discuss getting volunteers for a children's program and how to evaluate Open Days and docent-guided tours. We had a productive session and will meet with the elementary school faculty at a later date.